



## TEAM JONES

# LEGISLATIVE WEDNESDAY RUNDOWN

## Here's the Rundown from January 20, 2021!

### DETROIT CITY COUNCIL 10 AM INTERNAL OPERATIONS STANDING COMMITTEE AND THE 1 PM BUDGET FINANCE AND AUDIT STANDING COMMITTEE

**Internal Operations Standing Committee meets every Wednesday, at 10am**

#### **CLARK HILL LAW FIRM – CONSIDERED TO REPRESENT THE CITY OF DETROIT IN A LAWSUIT**

A \$200,000 contract increase for the **Clark Hill Law Firm** was considered. The additional funding is for the firm to represent the **City of Detroit** in a lawsuit claim filed by **Detroit Will Breathe**. The current contract term ends December 31, 2022.

- The fee schedule remains the same at: \$295 per hour for **Reginald Turner**
- \$275 per hour for **Partner**
- \$240 per hour for **Sr. Attorney of 5 years or more;**
- \$200 per hour for **Associate of 4 years or less.**

**The Detroit City Council held a Closed Session to discuss the contract on January 19, 2021 at 3pm.**

**This contract was moved from the committee with the Recommendation to Deny.** The Detroit City Council will consider this contract during the January 26, 2021 Detroit City Council Formal Session at 10am.

### **Memorandum of Agreement Between City of Detroit and Detroit Building Authority**

Presented for **City Council** approval was a **Memorandum of Agreement** between the **City of Detroit** and the **Detroit Building Authority**, also known as **DBA**, allowing **DBA** employees, directors, board members and personal service contractors to receive legal representation funded by the **City of Detroit**. **However, prior to approval, Council President Brenda Jones is requesting a report on the following:**

1. Number of employees eligible for representation
2. Number of lawsuits filed against the DBA or any of its agents
3. Dollar amounts paid in lawsuit settlements
4. A list of all current Detroit Building Authority projects



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**Budget Finance and Audit Standing Committee meets every Wednesday, at 1pm**

## **AUDITOR GENERAL EXAMINES AUDIT ON THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS, INCLUSION, AND OPPORTUNITY'S FINANCES**

In September 2018, the **Office of Auditor General** conducted an audit on the **Department of Civil Rights, Inclusion, and Opportunity's finances**. The department is also known as **CRIO**. The Interim Report in this audit details CRIO's contract compliance fee dollars, the transfer of said dollars to the Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation, and what the Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation did with those dollars. **This report examines the operations of CRIO between December 1st, 2016 and June 30th, 2019.**

### **Here's the Conclusion of the Audit:**

- The Office of the Chief Financial Officer did not follow its own directives or departmental policies and procedures in regard to CRIO's compliance fee dollars and cash receipts.
- Further, the Office of the Chief Financial Officer did not reconcile the financial activity for CRIO's compliance fees accurately nor timely.
- Lastly, the audit found an unresolved audit relating to the deficiencies in the bank reconciliation process.



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### CITY COUNCIL REQUEST EQUALIZATION CREDIT CAP ORDINANCE TO BE BROUGHT BACK FOR DISCUSSION ON FEBRUARY 10TH

The **Budget Audit and Finance Committee** voted to bring back an ordinance on **February 10th** for discussion on an **8% equalization credit cap**. This ordinance would prevent the City of Detroit from paying more than 8% over the lowest bid.

Equalization credits are utilized to level the playing field for Detroit businesses, businesses that hire Detroit residents and large companies that contract with smaller companies.

**Council President Jones** has submitted a memorandum requesting a report on how equalization credits are currently used to evaluate the need for the proposed ordinance. No information has been submitted to support that the City of Detroit is currently paying higher prices for City services and thus is risking a negative fiscal impact.

If you would like to receive public documents relative to any of the referenced items, please email Ms. Ray Duncan at [duncanr@detroitmi.gov](mailto:duncanr@detroitmi.gov)



**Council President Brenda Jones**



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